Tidings

The Concordia University Pagan Society

1455 de Maisonneuve West, suite H-637-3
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8
(514) 848-7441 (leave a message) - cupagans@eGroups.com
OFFICE: 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. Room SC 03-3

Samhain Edition

October Events

CUPS Samhain Ritual

Date: Friday, October 20th
Time: 8 pm
Location: Sir George campus, room H-721
Information: Join Jim as he leads us in our Samhain ritual. Jim has asked that everyone bring a small plant if possible. As always, bring your feast gear (cup, cutlery and a plate) as well as something to share in our post-ritual feast.

Montreal Grove Samhain Soirée

Date: Friday, October 27th
Time: Ritual, 7:30 - Party, 10:00
Location: Club 48, 4848 St. Laurent Blvd.
Info: Join the Montreal Grove as it celebrates Samhain with a ritual and an after rite party. The ritual itself is a free event, followed by a party at the same location at 10pm. Entry fee for the party is 8$. Advanced tickets are available at Mélange Magique, 1928 Ste-Catherine West. Questions should be directed to ***paganparty@total.net***

CUPS Monthly Genral Meeting

Date: Friday, October 27th
Time: 7PM
Location: 2090 Mackay, room Z-105
Information: Meet up with CUPS as we discuss monthly events and plan for the future. We also have a monthly discussion topic TBA. Come to meet, greet and chat. Go on.... live the adventure.

October Announcements

CUPS Logo Contest

Cups is looking for a new logo, and it could be your design! Submissions are now being excepted for our new logo contest. The winner of the contest will be given a bottle of mead from the cellar of our own Laird Dave. Hardcopy submissions should be no larger than letter sized paper. Digital submissions should be no larger than 640 x 480, and in JPEG or GIF format. The winner will be decided at our November General Meeting, tenatively schedualed for November 24th. Digital submissions should be sent to ***silirat@hyperlinx.net***. Hardcopy submissions should be sent to our office, the address of which is listed above.

A Brief History of Hallowe'en

By Peg Aloi Reprinted with permission

Hallowe'en has its origins in the British Isles. While the modern tradition of trick or treat developed in the U. S., it too is based on folk customs brought to this country with Irish immigrants after 1840. Since ancient times in Ireland, Scotland, and England, October 31st has been celebrated as a feast for the dead, and also the day that marks the new year. Mexico observes a Day of the Dead on this day, as do other world cultures. In Scotland, the Gaelic word "Samhain" (pronounced "SAW-win" or "SAW-vane") means literally "summer's end."

For early Europeans, this time of the year marked the beginning of the cold, lean months to come; the flocks were brought in from the fields to live in sheds until spring. Some animals were slaughtered, and the meat preserved to provide food for winter. The last gathering of crops was known as "Harvest Home," celebrated with fairs and festivals.

In addition to its agriculture significance, the ancient Celts also saw Samhain as a very spiritual time. Because October 31 lies exactly between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice, it is theorized that ancient peoples, with their reliance on astrology, thought it was a very potent time for magic and communion with spirits. The "veil between the worlds" of the living and the dead was said to be at its thinnest on this day; so the dead were invited to return to feast with their loved ones; welcomed in from the cold, much as the animals were brought inside. Ancient customs range from placing food out for dead ancestors, to performing rituals for communicating with those who had passed over.

Communion with the dead was thought to be the work of witches and sorcerers, although the common folk thought nothing of it. Because the rise of the Church led to growing suspicion of the pagan ways of country dwellers, Samhain also became associated with witches, black cats ("familiars" or animal friends), bats (night creatures), ghosts and other "spooky" things...the stereotype of the old hag riding the broomstick is simply a caricature; fairy tales have exploited this image for centuries.

Divination of the future was also commonly practiced at this magically-potent time; since it was also the Celtic New Year, people focused on their desires for the coming year. Certain traditions, such as bobbing for apples, roasting nuts in the fire, and baking cakes which contained tokens of luck, are actually ancient methods of telling fortunes.

Taken from 'You Call It Hallowe'en... We Call It Samhain', available online at The Witch's Voice (***http://www.witchvox.com***)

Descent Of The Goddess

Copyright 1993 Durwydd Mac Tara Reprinted with permission

In ancient times, our Lord, the Horned One, was (as he still is) the Controller, the Comforter. But men know him as the dread Lord of Shadows, lonely, stern, and just.

But our Lady the Goddess oft grieved deeply for the fate of her creations as they aged and died. She would solve all mysteries, even the mystery of death, and so journeyed to the underworld.

The Guardian of the Portals challenged her: 'Strip off thy garments, lay aside thy jewels; for naught may you bring with you into this our land, for it is written that your True Self is the only fitting adornment for those in the realms of Death.'

So she laid down her garments and her jewels, and was bound, as all living must be who seek to enter the realms of Death, the Mighty One.

Such was her beauty that Death himself knelt,and laid his sword and crown at her feet, and kissed her feet, saying: 'Blessed be thy feet that have brought thee in these ways. Abide with me; but let me place my cold hand on thy heart.'

And she replied: 'Why do you cause all things that I love, and take delight in, to fade and die?'

'Lady,' replied Death, 'it is age and fate, against which I am helpless. Age causes all things to wither; but when men die at the end of time, I give them rest and peace and strength, so that they may return. But you, you are lovely. Return not, abide with me.'

And she replied, 'Nay, I love thee not and I am needed in the world of the living.'

Again Death knelt, and kissed her knees, saying: 'Blessed be thy knees that kneel before the Altar. Abide with me; let me place my cold hand on thy heart.'

And she replied, 'Nay, I love thee not and I am needed in the world of the living.'

Death (still kneeling), kissed her on the womb, saying: 'Blessed be thy organs of generation, without which none of us would be. Abide with me; let me place my cold hand on thy heart.'

And she replied, 'Nay though I feel the beginnings of love for thee, I must return to those I fully love in the world of creation.'

Death then stood, and kissed her on the breast, saying: Blessed be thy breast, formed in strength and beauty. Abide with me; let me place my cold hand on thy heart.'

And she replied, 'Nay though I feel love for thee, I must not abandon those I am responsible for, in the world of creation. I cannot do this thing, better you would return with me.'

'Lady,' replied Death, 'It cannot be so. If I were to leave my realm, and abandon those who seek their comfort and rest with me, then the Wheel would no longer turn. Age and weakness would overtake those whom you love, and they would have nowhere to find rest, and peace, and reunion with those who have gone before. As age and debility overtook your creations, there would quickly be no room for the new, only the withered, the tired, and the stagnant.' He then kissed her lips, saying: 'Blessed be thy lips, which shall utter the Holy Names. Abide with me; let me place my cold hand on thy heart.'

And she replied, 'Let us BOTH lay our hands, each unto the heart of the other, thereby claiming and uniting each unto the other. In this way may I rule my kingdom of birth, creation, and life; yet share with you your kingdom of death, rejuvenation, and rest. United in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, that the Universe may be whole and the Wheel turn smoothly.

Death replied, 'This is indeed WISDOM, So Mote it Be!' They embraced, thus pledging their eternal love. And he taught her all his mysteries, and gave her the necklace which is the circle of rebirth. And she ttaught him her mystery of the sacred cup which is the cauldron of rebirth.

They loved, and were one; for there be three great mysteries in the life of mankind, and magic controls them all. To fulfil love, you must return again at the same time and at the same place as the loved ones; and you must meet, and know, and remember, and love them again. But to be reborn, you must die, and be made ready for a new body. And to die, you must be born; and without love, you may not be born.

And our Goddess is ever inclined to love,and mirth, and happiness; and guards and cherishes her hidden children in life, and in death she teaches the way to her communion; and even in this world she teaches them the mystery of the Magic Circle, which is placed between tthe worlds of men and of the Gods.

And thus we are taught of the beginnings of the wheel of the year wherein the Lord and the Lady share their rulership of the year, each offering and sharing a balance to the other, and the basis of that sharing.

QUESTIONS

by Gawaine

Why? I ask
And the Universe smiles,
Holds up a mirror for me to see.
Who? I ask,
And my path opens,
Forward into infinity.
Where? I ask,
And the Gods show me
All places and none,
All the times outside of time.
When? I ask,
And before my eyes
My heartbeats become
A chain of stars across the sky.

THE LADY'S WAY

by Gawaine

I asked the Lady, show me your way.

And she showed me the wise owl in flight,
The thunderbolt as it shouts from the sky,
The trees like spears pointing to the sun
Buffeted by the wind slashing from on high.

This is my way, the Lady said:

To see through darkness and to strike with your heart,
To blaze across Heaven without a moment of fear.
To stand straight and true now matter what comes,
To reach for the sky and feel it draw near.

This is my way, she said. Learn it well.

Pumpkin Cheesecake Pie

1 pkg.(3 oz.) Philadelphia Brand cream cheese, softened
2 pkgs. (4 serving size) Jell-O Vanilla Instant Pudding and Pie Filling
1 can (16 oz.) pumpkin
1 1/2 cups thawed Cool Whip whipped topping
1 graham cracker pie crust
1 cup plus 1 Tbls. cold half and half or milk
1 Tbls. sugar
1 tsp. ground ciniman
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cloves

Mix cream cheese, 1 Tbsp. half and half, and surgar with wire wisk until smooth. Gently stir in whipped topping. Spread on bottom of crust. Pour one cup half and half into mixing bowl. Add pudding mix. Beat with wire wisk until well blended. 1-2 mins. Let stand 3 mins. Stir in pumpkin and spices, mix well. Spread over cream cheese layer.Refigerate at least 2 hrs. Garnish with whipped topping, and nuts. as desired. Makes 8 servings.

Got content?

Submissions for Tidings

Submissions for Tidings may be made to ***silirat@hyperlinx.net***, in TEXT or JPG format. Bear in mind that our publication is black and white. Deadline is 7 days before our monthly general meeting, as listed in the EVENTS section of this newsletter.